

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /088 W  
-----128014 251744Z /42

R 251600Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7683  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VALLETTA 1216

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT  
SUBJECT: GOM EASILY DEFEATS NATIONALIST PARTY MOTION  
OF NO CONFIDENCE

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT AS EXPECTED DEFEATED A NATIONALIST PARTY MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE BY 31-25 ON OCTOBER 12. THE MOTION ATTACKED THE GOM'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS POLICY, CHARGING THAT THE GOVERNMENT BY ITS DEEDS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE NEED FOR NOR THE RIGHTS OF FREE TRADE UNIONS. THE DEBATE WAS VERY TURBULENT, EVEN BY MALTESE PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS. MINTOFF, IN PARTICULAR, USED STRONG LANGUAGE IN CONDEMNING THE OPPOSITION. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, ANSWER THE CHARGES CONTAINED IN THE MOTION VERY EFFECTIVELY. HE CLAIMED THAT THE NATIONALIST PARTY WAS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SOURCES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE USA AND FROM "JEWISH DOCTORS."  
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END SUMMARY

2. ON OCTOBER 12 MALTA LABOR PARTY (MLP) DEFEATED A NATIONALIST PARTY MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE BY A VOTE OF 31-25. THE MOTION, WHICH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, DR. EDDIE FENECH ADAMI, PRESENTED ON JULY 4 (BUT IT DID NOT COME UP FOR DEBATE UNTIL OCTOBER 12) ATTACKED THE

GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND TRADE UNION POLICY.  
IT SPECIFICALLY CHARGED THAT:

(A) THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT OF 1976 WAS PASSED  
ONLY AFTER 5 YEARS OF LABOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL, ALTHOUGH  
IT WAS ALLEGEDLY A HIGH PRIORITY IN THE LABOR PARTY'S  
1971 ELECTORAL PROGRAM;

(B) FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE ACT CAME INTO FORCE THE  
INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL AND THE JOINT NEGOTIATING COUNCIL  
STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED;

(C) THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSULT WITH "FREE TRADE  
UNIONS" (I.E. ALL EXCEPT GENERAL WORKERS UNION) ON CHANGES  
IN BENEFITS AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS;

(D) GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER TAKES HARSH MEASURES  
AGAINST THEIR WORKERS WHO FOLLOW UNION DIRECTIVES;

(E) MLP IS ATTEMPTING TO "ABSORB AND STIFLE" GENERAL  
WORKERS UNION (GWU) BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE RELATIONS  
BETWEEN IT AND THE MLP;

(F) FINALLY BY THE ABOVE CITED DEEDS THE GOVERNMENT  
"DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE NEED FOR THE THE RIGHTS OF FREE  
TRADE UNIONS".  
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3. ADAMI, IN HIS SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, ASKED  
WHY IT HAD TAKEN THE GOVERNMENT FIVE YEARS TO PASS ITS  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AND WHY FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE LAW  
HAD COME INTO EFFECT THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL AND THE JOINT  
NEGOTIATING COUNCIL HAD NOT BEEN SET UP. HE NOTED  
THAT THE GOVERNMENT, INSTEAD OF USING THIS MACHINERY, HAS  
PASSED LAWS THROUGH PARLIAMENT TO HANDLE ITS LABOR RELATIONS  
PROBLEMS. HE CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ALLOWING  
WORKERS WHO WORK IN THE PARAMILITARY WORKER COPRS  
ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FORM UNIONS AND OBJECTED  
TO THE USE OF MEMBERS OF THESE CORPS AS STRIKE BREAKERS.  
HE ALSO CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO RESORT  
TO LOCK OUTS AND INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEES WHEN  
THEY TOOK PARTIAL INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS OR ENGAGED IN SYMPATHY  
STRIKES. HE ASKED WHY THE GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON FULL  
STRIKES OR NO INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS AT ALL WHEN GWU USED TO  
RESORT TO PARTIAL INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT ONLY CONSULTS WITH THE GWU AND IGNORES ALL OTHER  
UNIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS REDUCTION OF LEAVE AND PUBLIC  
HOLIDAYS. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER AMALGAMATION OF THE  
GWU WITH THE MLP WOULD BE HEALTHY FOR THE LABOR

MOVEMENT IN MALTA. RECENT ACTIONS SUCH AS PUTTING FORMER  
GWU SECRETARY GENERAL ATTARD KINGSWELL ON INDEFINITE  
LEAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE MLP RATHER THAN THE WORKERS WAS  
MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT UNION MATTERS. AT THIS POINT ADAMI  
RAN OUT OF HIS ALLOTTED TIME.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VALLETTA 1216

4. PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF RESPONDED FOR THE GOVERNMENT  
BY CHARGING THAT NATIONALIST CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS POLICY WAS HYPOCRITICAL AS THEY WERE  
CONSTANTLY AGAINST THE WELFARE OF THE WORKERS WHILE THEY  
WERE IN POWER. THE NATIONALISTS PASSED LAWS WHICH MADE  
CERTAIN STRIKES PUNISHABLE BY JAIL SENTENCES AND USED  
POLICE AND CHILDREN WORKERS TO BREAK STRIKES. MINTOFF  
RESPONDED TO CHARGES THAT THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL AND THE  
JOINT NEGOTIATING COUNCIL HAD NOT BEEN SET UP BY ASSERTING  
THAT THESE ORGANS COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH LABOR GROUPS ON THEIR FORMATION HAD TAKEN PLACE AND  
THIS IN TURN COULD NOT OCCUR WHILE A STRIKE WAS GOING ON.  
MINTOFF ARGUED THAT WORKERS MUST BE UNITED NOT ONLY IN THE  
ECONOMIC BUT ALSO IN THE POLITICAL FIELD IF THEY ARE TO  
REALIZE THE FULL BENEFITS OF THEIR POWER. CONSEQUENTLY, A

UNION OF THE MLP AND GWU WAS PERFECTLY LOGICAL AND BEST FOR  
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THE WORKERS. THE NATIONALISTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN MALTA AND DISCOURAGE THE GWU FROM JOINING WITH THE MLP BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO FALL. IN THIS CONNECTION MINTOFF CLAIMED THAT THE NATIONALISTS WERE GETTING MONEY FROM SOURCES IN THE USA, GERMANY, LUXEMBOURG AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND "FROM JEWISH DOCTORS." HE ACCUSED ADAMI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY OF WRITING LETTERS TO A CERTAIN "MR. SMITH" IN THE US ASKING FOR "FUNDS TO FIGHT COMMUNISM IN MALTA" AND OFFERED TO SHOW COPIES OF THEM TO ADAMI. REGRADING KINGSWELL, MINTOFF STATED THAT KINGSWELL'S COLLEAGUES HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND HAD REMOVED HIM FROM POWER AS HE WOULD HAVE "LED THEM INTO THE HANDS OF THE NATIONALISTS." ON CONSULTATIONS, GOVERNMENT IS ONLY OBLIGED TO CONSULT WITH THE LARGEST TRADE UNION AND WANTS TO DO SO IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE WORKERS TO HAVE ONLY "ONE VOICE." THE REASON THE LABOR GOVERNMENT RESORTED TO USING A PARAMILITARY CORPS FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS THE QUICKEST WAY TO REDUCE THE UNEMPLOYMENT THEY FOUND WHEN THEY ASSUMED POWER. HAVING DECIDED TO USE THE MILITARY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS OBLIGED TO ADHERE TO THE ARMY ACT WHICH REQUIRES UNIFORMS FOR ITS PERSONNEL AND ALLOWS NO STRIKES. IN ANY CASE, PEOPLE WERE FREE TO JOIN OR NOT. MINTOFF ASSERTED THAT IT WAS RIGHT TO LOCK OUT THE DOCTORS AS A FEW DOCTORS SHOULD NOT RUN THE PEOPLES' HOSPITALS. MINTOFF CONCLUDED THAT BY ADVISING THE NATIONALISTS TO ADOPT A "CHRISTIAN AND SERIOUS" POLICY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS IF THEY WANT TO REGAIN POWER.

5. COMMENT: FOR THE FIRST TIME A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE WAS BROADCAST OVER THE RADIO. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE DISORDERLINESS OF THE HOUSE WHICH WAS GREATER THAN USUAL. THE SPEAKER HAD TO SUSPEND  
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PROCEEDINGS TWICE. MINTOFF USED VERY STRONG LANGUAGE AT TIMES, REFERRING TO THE NATIONALISTS AS FILTHY AND COWARDLY AND TO ADAMI AS BEING INTELLECTUALLY AND MORALLY FILTHY. BASED ON PRESS REPORTS OF MINTOFF'S SPEECH, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT HE REBUTTED THE CHARGES CONTAINED IN THE MOTION VERY EFFECTIVELY AND THERE IS NO DENYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S LABOR RELATIONS WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE AND PARASTATAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE POOR.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NEVER ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE ON THE MOTION - PARTY DISCIPLINE PREVAILED. ONE OF THE MORE NOTEWORTHY PARTS OF MINTOFF'S SPEECH WAS HIS CHARGE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND FROM "JEWISH DOCTORS" FOR THE NATIONALIST PARTY. THE JEWISH DOCTOR THEME WAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL SPACE IN THE MALTA NEWS AS WAS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES. ONE ARTICLE IN THE MALTA NEWS REFERRED TO AN ALLEGATION CONTAINED IN MARCHETTI AND MARKS BOOK "THE CIA AND THE CULT OF INTELLIGENCE" THAT THE CIA WANTED TO SEND AN OPERATIVE TO MALTA TO INTERVENE IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN FAVOR OF THE NATIONALISTS BUT THAT HE DID NOT COME BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF THE US AMBASSADOR AT THAT TIME, MR. PRITZLAFF. LAINGEN

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009